

STANDING STRONG – No Matter What Life Throws At You!

Part 5: Heat

July 30, 2017

“As soon as the music starts, you are to bow down and worship the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Anyone who does not bow down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.”

Daniel 3:5b-6 (GN)

1. Talk about a time when you found yourself in hot water or when you felt pressured to conform. What happened? How did you react? What was the outcome?

“I have refined you but not in the way silver is refined. Rather, I have refined you in the furnace of suffering.”

Isaiah 48:10 (NLT)

2. As God is more concerned about our character than our comfort, He may allow us to experience the furnace of suffering. Share a time when your character was tested by suffering. What has you tied up in the furnace? What part of your character could God be building through this?

“Then Nebuchadnezzar said, ‘Praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! He sent his angel to rescue his servants who trusted in him. They defied the king’s command and were willing to die rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.’”

Daniel 3:28 (NLT)

3. For whom or what would you be willing to die? If you were asked to choose between your life and the approval of others, which would you choose and why?
4. When have you been forced to make an unpleasant choice of doing what is right before God or conforming to social pressure? How do you feel about your choice now?

“But each of you must be careful how you build [your lives]. For God has already placed Jesus Christ as the one and only foundation... And the quality of each person’s work will be seen when the Day of Christ exposes it. For on that Day fire will reveal everyone’s work.... If what was built on the foundation survives the fire, the builder will receive a reward. But if your work is burnt up, then you will lose it; but you yourself will be saved, as if you had escaped through the fire.”

1 Corinthians 3:10b-15 (GN)

5. What steps are you taking to build a life on a foundation that can be tested by fire? What direction should you take now to make sure you will collect your reward?